



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of  
RONALD L. BEALE  
For: BACK SUPPORT APPARATUS FOR USE  
WITH A BACKPACK  
Serial No. 09/844,047  
Filed: 4/30/01

PATENT  
) Art Unit: 3727  
) Examiner: M. Brevard  
)  
)  
)  
) February 9, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



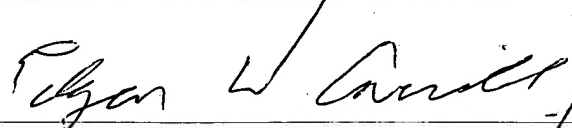
Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

In response to the Office Action of January 28, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

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3727

<b>AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Small Entity)</b>			Docket No. 133/28		
Applicant(s): <b>Ronald L. Beale</b>					
Serial No. 09/844,047	Filing Date 4/30/01	Examiner M. Brevard	Group Art Unit 3727		
Invention: <b>Back Support Apparatus for Use With a Backpack</b>					
 <b>TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</b>					
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Entity status of this application has been established under 37 CFR 1.27 by a verified statement previously submitted. <input type="checkbox"/> A verified statement to establish Small Entity status under 37 CFR 1.27 is enclosed.					
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
<b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED</b>					
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	17 -	20 =	0 x	\$9.00	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	2 -	3 =	0 x	\$43.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-3022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16. <input type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.					
 Signature			Dated: February 10, 2004		
<b>Edgar W. Averill, Jr.</b> <b>Averill &amp; Varn</b> <b>8244 Painter Ave.</b> <b>Whittier, CA 90602</b> <b>562/698-8039</b>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on  <b>February 10, 2004</b> with the U.S. Postal Service as first            class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the            for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">             Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence         </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Edgar W. Averill, Jr.</b>            Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence         </p> </div>		
cc:					

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